

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Museum Side Notes

• BOARD MEETINGS For 2014 :

Jan.8, Feb.12, Mar.12, Apr. 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095
2007: 3,527
2008: 4,561
2009: 5,804
2010: 6,368
2011: 7,131
2012: 8,300
2013: 8,036
2014: 7,647

Special Tours & Off Site Venues:

10/8/14 — Destin Forward Class
10/9/14 — Happy Hearts' Senior Group
10/23/14 — City Open House
10/24/14—Forward Air Controller's Reunion
10/28/14 —Cub Scouts
11/22/14—Kathy Blue participated in "Living Library Books" at Destin Library
12/1/14—Jean Melvin participated in "Okaloosa Today" TV program on Primrose and Old Post Office renovation project.

Volume 9 Issue 2

October to December 2014

From the Staff

As the New Year begins, the Museum has several projects underway. The most extensive is the restoration of the seine boat "Primrose" and the repair of the original Destin Post Office building. These artifacts will be moved to the east side of the Museum to create our new historic park. This new location will enable us to have the "Primrose" and the Post Office building open to the public on a regular basis.

Destin's earliest settlers were very industrious and self sufficient. Constructing fishing boats and knitting seine nets was a way of life known to Destin fishermen. The Museum contains interesting items and relics which tell so much about these fascinating folks. What better way is there to understand their rich culture and heritage than through the everyday articles they made, used, mended and cherished.

The Museum receives new artifacts on a regular basis. We are dedicated to the care of each and every item. New exhibits are constructed so that these artifacts may be enjoyed by all our visitors. If you have family items you would like to share, please get in touch with the Museum. We will be glad to add your item to our collection.

Jean

Calendar of Events

October 1

Museum 9th Anniversary

October 3, 4, & 5

Destin Seafood Festival
Museum Fundraising Concessions
Harry T's Dave's Dogs Booth & AJ's Parking Concession

Month of October

The Great Pumpkin Patch at AJ's Benefits the Museum

December 14

28 th Annual Holiday on the Harbor
Lighted Boat Parade

January 31, 2015

Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction
Destin Community Center
11 AM to 2 PM

February 11, 2015

Museum General Membership Meeting

We are looking for items for our Silent Auction. Please contact us if you have an item or gift certificate to donate.



Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction



The Annual Gumbo Contest and Silent Auction Fundraiser will take place Saturday, January 31, 2015 at the Destin Community Center from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Area restaurants and individuals compete for the title of the best gumbo on the panhandle. The event will include live music by local band, "Flash Flood" and a silent auction of sixty plus packages including artwork, vacation stays, jewelry, and restaurant gift certificates, boating and fishing trips, services, golf, recreational activities and much more. Come sample all the areas' finest gumbo and cast your vote for the People's Choice Award. Advance tickets are available now at the Museum for \$10 per adult. Admission will be \$12 at the door the day of the event. For more information concerning entering your gumbo in the contest, donating an item for the silent auction or coming to enjoy the event contact the Museum at 850-837-6611 or email kathydestinhistory@gmail.com.



Museum Benefits During the Seafood Festival



After the disappointing 2013 year when the Destin Seafood Festival had to be cancelled due to a tropical storm, Destin was busy during this festival held October 3, 4, & 5th. This year's Seafood Festival was a huge success for all of Destin. An estimated 70,000 came out to enjoy the festival. The museum had a fundraiser including a parking concession and food booth.

Dan Empson of Harry T's Restaurant donated his cooking staff, food products for his famous "Dave's Dogs" and alcohol refreshments for festival goers. Alan Laird of AJ's Seafood and Oyster Bar donated the use of his parking lot for the museum to use for a parking concession. The Museum Board and lots of museum volunteers helped make this a fabulous event!



December 10th, at the Museum Board Meeting, Dan Empson & Harry T's Restaurant was recognized for the cumulative two year financial and in-kind donations made to the Museum. The Museum Board and Staff are so thankful for this continued support.



Lex Johnson from Margaritaville and Dan Empson from Harry T's Lighthouse present a check for \$1,250 to Dave Steele and Jean Melvin. Proceeds came from the HarborWalk Village Blues, Brews, & BBQ event.



Snapshots From the Past

Albert H. & Alice Fox



In 1934, Al Fox bought seven acres of land in Destin thru Mr. Tyler Calhoun. Albert H. Fox was born April 27, 1889 in Elmira, New York. He grew up on a beautiful big farm and in a "stately home" long owned by his ancestors. He was a longtime volunteer with the Boy Scouts and the Boys Club of America. He was an active outdoorsman and a nature lover. He was on his way from his home in Syracuse, New York to New Orleans using the "Blue Book" of maps published by the Automobile Association. The map showed the bridge complete and the road following the coast. He was delighted with beautiful Destin and purchased his retirement land.

Mr. Fox hired Hillary Davis to build his Destin home which was done using sketches sent by mail. Mr. Fox didn't return to Destin until 1942. In 1942, there were ninety people living in Destin. Louis Marler's general store was the only building on Hwy. 98 other than the Kelly building by the bridge.

A hurricane in the 1940s covered Holiday Isle completely and water was breaking on the bluff above the Harbor. A large herd of cattle left grazing on the island were lost. The Medical Corp from Eglin Air Force Base set up in the Community Center to help those affected by the hurricane.

Al Fox was instrumental in getting phone service to Destin. He was a retired manager and president of a telephone company in New York. When he came to Destin during World War II, he talked a general at Eglin Air Force Base into helping Destin get telephone service on the grounds that the Air Force needed to be able to communicate with their military personnel who lived in Destin. In late 1951, a little concrete block building was built by Southeastern Telephone on the current site of WhatABurger, as the central switching office for Destin. In early 1952, sixty phones were ready for operation with an additional fifteen soon to be added for service.

Al and his wife Alice were "angels" of the Destin Library, donating the first 800 volumes in 1940. Al wrote Fred Zerbe that he had collected books to send to Destin if a place could be found to house the books. Mr. Zerbe wrote Mr. Gaylord of the Gaylord Library Supplies, Co. at Syracuse to ask suggestions for starting a library. Mr. Gaylord also provided books and oak shelves. William T. Marler provided space in one of the Sunday school rooms in the Mission Presbyterian Church. The library opened to the public on September 20, 1940. The couple was active in many aspects of life in the village of Destin including the organization of the Destin Community Center. Beyond these great accomplishments brought to Destin, it was their character and personality that brought great joy to those that knew them. Alice Turner Fox was born in Cato, N.Y. November 15, 1890 and descendant of both Thomas Hooker, the famous Puritan clergyman and chief founder of Hartford, Conn. and President Martin VanBuren. They were married in 1915 and had one daughter Patricia who married Robert McIlroy. The couple continued their active outdoor life and had camps in the Adirondack Mountains, on Lake Ontario and spent a good deal of time in Canada. They would make many hiking treks from their base camps to travel in the wilds of nature. After Alice's death in 1964, Al made annual generous book donations to the Destin Library. Albert passed away October 15, 1990 at the age of 101.



The Destin History and Fishing Museum hosted the 28th Holiday on the Harbor Destin Boat Parade and fireworks by Pyro Shows, Inc. Sunday, December 14, 2014. Trophy sponsors for the event were: AJ’s Seafood & Oyster Bar, The Beachcomber, City of Destin, Harry T’s, HD Action Photography, Infinite Laser, Kelly Plantation Fishing Club, Pelican Beach Resorts and Ship’s Chandler. Restaurant gift certificate award sponsors were: AJ’s Seafood & Oyster Bar, Boschamps, Camille’s at Crystal Beach, Dewey Destin’s Seafood, Harbor Docks, Harry T’s, Fudpucker’s, Jackacuda’s, Margaritaville, and Ruth Chris Steak House.. The Pyro Shows fireworks sponsors were AJ’s Seafood & Oyster Bar, The Boathouse, Crab Island Cantina, The Destin History and Fishing Museum, Harry T’s, Margaritaville, and Pepito’s.

Sam SeEVERS was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Dan Empson and Harry T’s Restaurant hosted the parade judges. Judges for the event were Congressman Jeff Miller, Destin City Manager Greg Kisela, Jennifer Campbell and Terry Hensley. Award presentations were given by Mayor Mel Ponder and 2014 Miss Destin Kira Moraca. Twenty-three Christmas Spirited boaters registered for the lighted boat parade which was viewed all along Destin Harbor.

Winners in each category were:



Private 30 Ft. & Under
SEA BISQUIT
Captained by
Ron McNeil



Private 31 Ft. & Over
FINATIC
Captained by
Matthew Champion



Charter/Commercial
30 Ft. & Under
DREAD KNOT
Captained by
Josh Livingston



Charter/Commercial
31 Ft. & Over
SWOOOP II
Captained by
Matt Wheeler



Tour Boat
50 Ft. & Under
**EMERALD GRANDE
SHUTTLE**
Captained by
Harber Partin



Tour Boat
51 Ft. & Over
BUCCANEER
Captained by
“Captain Cannonball”



Sailboat 30 Ft. & Under
MIAMI MERGER
Captained by
Greg Buchanan



Sailboat 31 Ft. & Over
SPIDER CRAB
Captained by
Greg Buchanan



Overall Best Entry
LYNNE MARIE
Captained by
Tommy Graves



City of Destin
Harbor Heritage Award
DOC HOLLIDAY
Captained by
Lance Reemer

The Museum Staff, Jean Melvin & Kathy Blue, Board President Dave Steele and Parade Committee Chairman John Lefler thanks everyone that participated in helping to light up the harbor with holiday spirit and everyone that came out to join in the beautiful display. Special thanks to the Destin Coast Guard Station, City of Destin, Destin Fire Control District, HarborWalk Village Staff, HD Action Photography and Greg Featherston and Jaxon Mitchell, the Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade Committee and Judges for helping to make the parade a wonderful Destin Holiday Tradition.

Destin's Oldest Manmade Artifacts Receiving Help



Destin's oldest artifacts are receiving some much needed care. The seine boat Primrose was built in 1925 by John George Maltezo for Captain John Melvin and is the last seine boat built in Destin. Started in 1934 the Old Post Office was built by William T. Marler on Calhoun Avenue in front of his home to be ready to serve the community when the first bridge opened up in 1936. As the owners of the boat and post office, the City of Destin is ultimately tasked with the responsibility for their upkeep. The Museum maintains the exhibits inside the post office and opens it for tours. The City and Museum have worked in partnership to solicit financial and in-kind donations for the restoration. The Shoults and Veach families made a \$10,000 donation for the project. Matt Ronk is doing the boat renovations. Baker Metal Works, Buddy Gordon, Charlie Smith of Milton Truss Company, Frank Davis, Mike Buckingham, DAG Architect Jack Baker and the City have pledged supplies and labor to build a covered structure on the museum property to house the restored Primrose. The Chamber of Commerce "Destin Forward Class" project is supporting the relocation of the Primrose and old post office to the museum site. They are building walkways and landscaped areas to enhance the new "historic park" area. They are working with the City to provide a celebration and ribbon cutting planned for Founder's Day May 2, 2015. These efforts are a lasting tribute to Destin's heritage.



destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Museum Board of Directors

Executive Board President: Dave Steele Vice President: Dan Martin

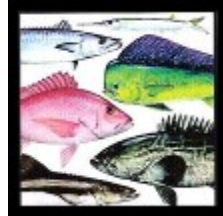
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Executive Director Jean Melvin **Associate Director** Kathy Marler Blue

Museum Docents: Dave Fraser, Carole Marler **Museum Volunteer:** Nancy Johnson

Newsletter Writer and Editor Kathy Marler Blue



DHFM
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**PLEASE MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:
DESTIN HISTORY & FISHING MUSEUM
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DESTIN, FL 32541**

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**TAX TIME IS COMING !!!
LOOKING FOR A 2014 TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Donation Tax Receipts are available for your donations to the Destin History & Fishing Museum

Tuesday - Saturday
10am to 4pm

Admission: Adults: \$5
Seniors & Military: \$4
Students: \$3
Kids 6 & Under
and Members : Free

Newsletter printed courtesy of Xerox

Join or Renew Your Membership Today

Destin History and Fishing Museum is a non profit organization whose members are dedicated to preserving, documenting, and sharing the complete history of Destin. There are limitless ways you, your friends, and associates can be part of realizing these efforts. Now more than ever we can use your support. **Your donation or membership is tax deductible.** Please fill out the form below and mail it to the museum.

Yes, I Give My Support!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership/Amount \$20 _____ \$ 50 _____ \$ 100 _____ \$250 _____ \$ Other _____

Check # _____ If you would like to pay by credit card please call the Museum and have your credit card ready.

Mail to: **Destin History and Fishing Museum P.O. Box 548 Destin, Florida 32540-0548**

Thank you. Without your faithful and generous donations and efforts, the museum would not exist today.